

Early Childhood Iowa
Budget Impact
2/2011

	FY2011 Current Budget	FY2012 Dept. Request	FY2012 Total Governor's Recommendation	Reduction Amount	
Family Support	13,153,653	13,153,653	12,364,434	789,219	6%
Preschool Tuition	7,583,912	7,583,912	3,128,877	4,455,035	59%
School Ready	5,729,907	5,729,907	5,386,113	343,794	6%

Impact Statements:

Family Support Reduction Impact Statement

Reduction of \$789,219 in parent support funds = 6% reduction in available funds that support parents to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Participating families improve or maintain healthy family functioning, problem solving and communication
2. Participating families increase or maintain social supports
3. Participating families are connected to additional concrete supports
4. Participating families increase knowledge about child development and parenting
5. Participating families improve nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren)

In the 2011 fiscal year, 176 local family support programs across the state receive funding from their local early childhood Iowa area board. (2011 list of contractors and contract amounts is attached to this handout.)

Programs are diverse in nature to meet the unique needs of parents with young children in their communities. This diversity makes calculating the fiscal impact of this reduction challenging. For this purpose we will look at two of the most commonly funded family support programs; Stork's NEST and Parents as Teachers.

	Stork's NEST (Group based parent education)	Parents as Teachers (home visitation program)
Cost per child to provide the service	\$161.74	\$857.27
Reduction in the number of children to be served based on reduction in the Governor's proposed budget	4,694	886
Reduction in the number of staff employed by the program based on the reduction of funds in the Governor's proposed budget	33	11

Data source: 2010 ECI Annual Reports

Preschool Support Impact Statement:

In FY '10, local empowerment area boards reported utilizing \$7,196,128 of the preschool support funds for tuition and transportation support. This impacted 7,559 children, ages 3, 4 or 5. An FY '12 appropriation of \$3,128,877, area boards could impact approximately 3,287 children, resulting in a reduction of 4,272 children served.

Please note that the impact statement is just an example for these funds. Legislation also allows area boards to provide supportive services to preschool environments. Examples of supportive services include: extended day in programming, supporting a child care nurse consultant, dental screenings, developmental screenings, family support consultation, mental health services, etc. The example provided in this impact statement does not reflect that type of service.

School Ready Impact Statement:

School Ready funding is utilized to support a comprehensive school ready children plan designed by the area boards. The 6% reduction amounts to \$343,794. Most of these funds are targeted for categorical purposes with specific parameters. Based on the Governor's budget, these funding categories include Administration, Quality Improvement Efforts and Other Services. Area boards must adhere to requirements specific to each funding category. The reduction in funds will impact Iowa communities through various supportive services that would have been identified as community needs or gaps within the early care, health and education systems available in the community. Examples of funded activities with these funds include: Accreditation supports; playground equipment; curriculum and related materials; Iowa Quality Preschool Programming Supports (IQPPS); Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS), Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) and Quality Rating System (QRS) supports; home and center child care consultants; professional development activities for both preschool and child care staff; quality improvements in both preschool and child care facilities; and staff support in both preschool and child care facilities

Funding History for Community Empowerment/Early Childhood Iowa

Fiscal Year	Early Childhood	% of Change	School Ready	% of Change
08	\$7,250,000		\$38,434,844	
09	\$7,250,000	0% change	\$36,955,259	4% reduction
10	\$6, 750,000	7% reduction	\$30,015,522	19% reduction
11	\$6,350,000	6% reduction	\$25,287,842	16% reduction
12 – Governor's Proposed	\$6,350.000 est.	0% change	\$20,879,424	17.5% reduction



Early Childhood Iowa

Past and Present

Shanell Wagler
Early Childhood Iowa Office

Overview



- Iowa Community Empowerment and Early Childhood Iowa Timeline – A brief history and description.
- What Iowa's system looks like now.

ECI Timeline

- 1998 – Empowerment Legislation Enacted
- 2002 – Received a technical assistance grant from North Carolina's Smart Start initiative
- 2003 – Early Childhood Iowa created. Received Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant.
- 2004– Strategic Plan, built around result areas, adopted and endorsed by 60+ groups, agencies and organizations, operational guidelines were produced.
- 2008 – ECI added to Code, Rules written
- 2009 ECI Stakeholders identified by the Governor as Iowa's Early Childhood Advisory Council.
- 2010 – Legislation to merge Community Empowerment and Early Childhood Iowa

The local Empowerment experience:

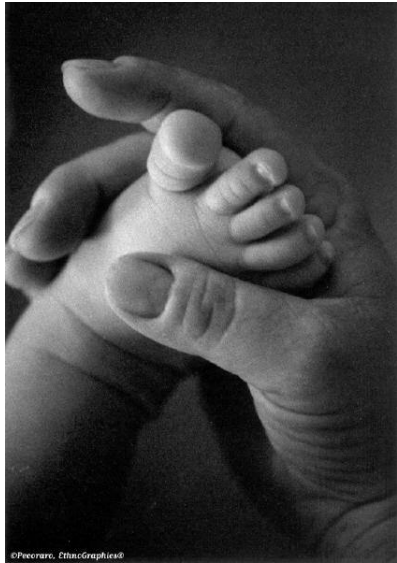
- For the first time, the early childhood message got further than the “choir”. Business leaders, local elected officials and citizens became educated and engaged on the issues affecting young children.
- Communities began to ask “What do we want life to be like for young children in our community and how can we move our vision closer to reality?”
- Community assessments and plans were developed that went beyond the scope of a single program to consider the broader needs of children from 0-5 years.
- New collaborative relationships developed between early childhood programs and professionals began to think in new ways about their community.

The natural tensions along the way:

- Focus on children with the **highest risk or all young children?**
- Differences between **rural and urban** areas.
- Developing a **funding formula** incorporating multiple, complex factors.
- **Striking a balance between types of programs** and services (classroom based, family child care, parenting, home visitation and child health).
- Balancing the needs of children from **0-3** with those of **4 & 5** year olds.
- **Assuring accountability** for results, best practices, process and funding.
- Keeping everyone on the **same page**. The limits of institutional memory with new people on local boards, state board, state team, in the legislature and in the governor's office.

Iowa's Vision for Early Care, Health, and Education

“Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.”



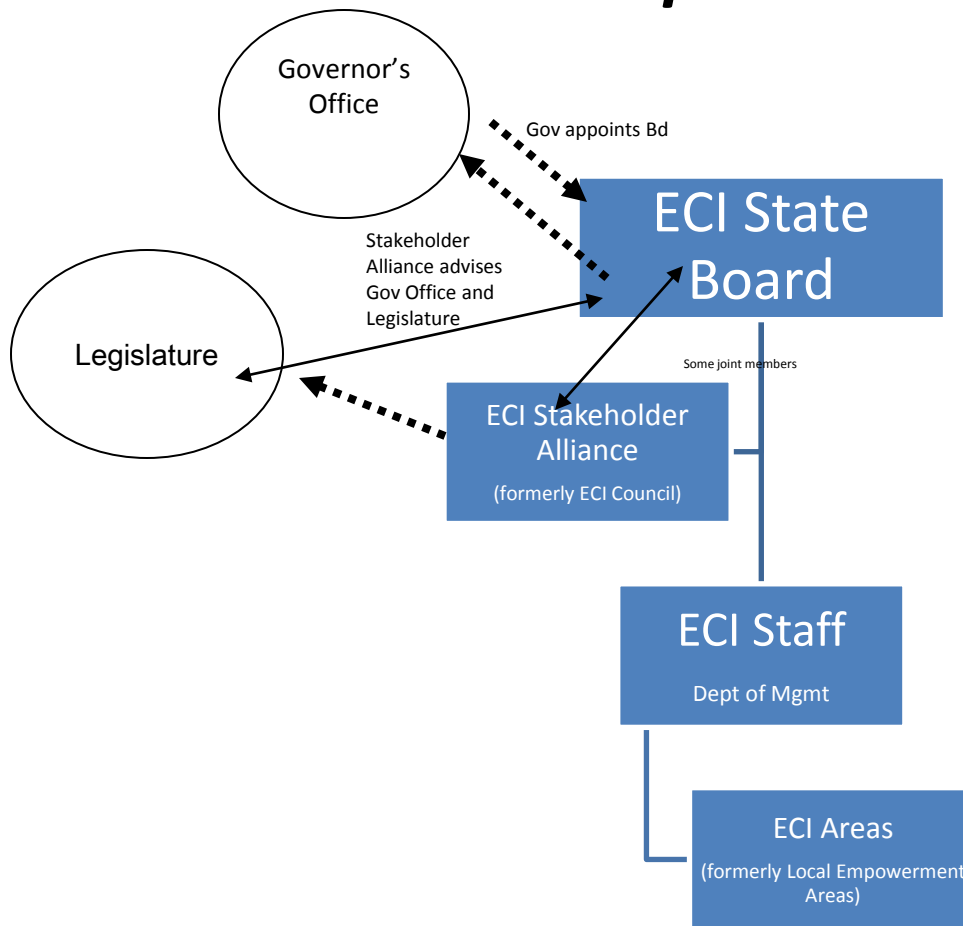
- Adopted by state agencies and public and private organizations
- Gained buy-in and support of Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

ECI – The Next Stage

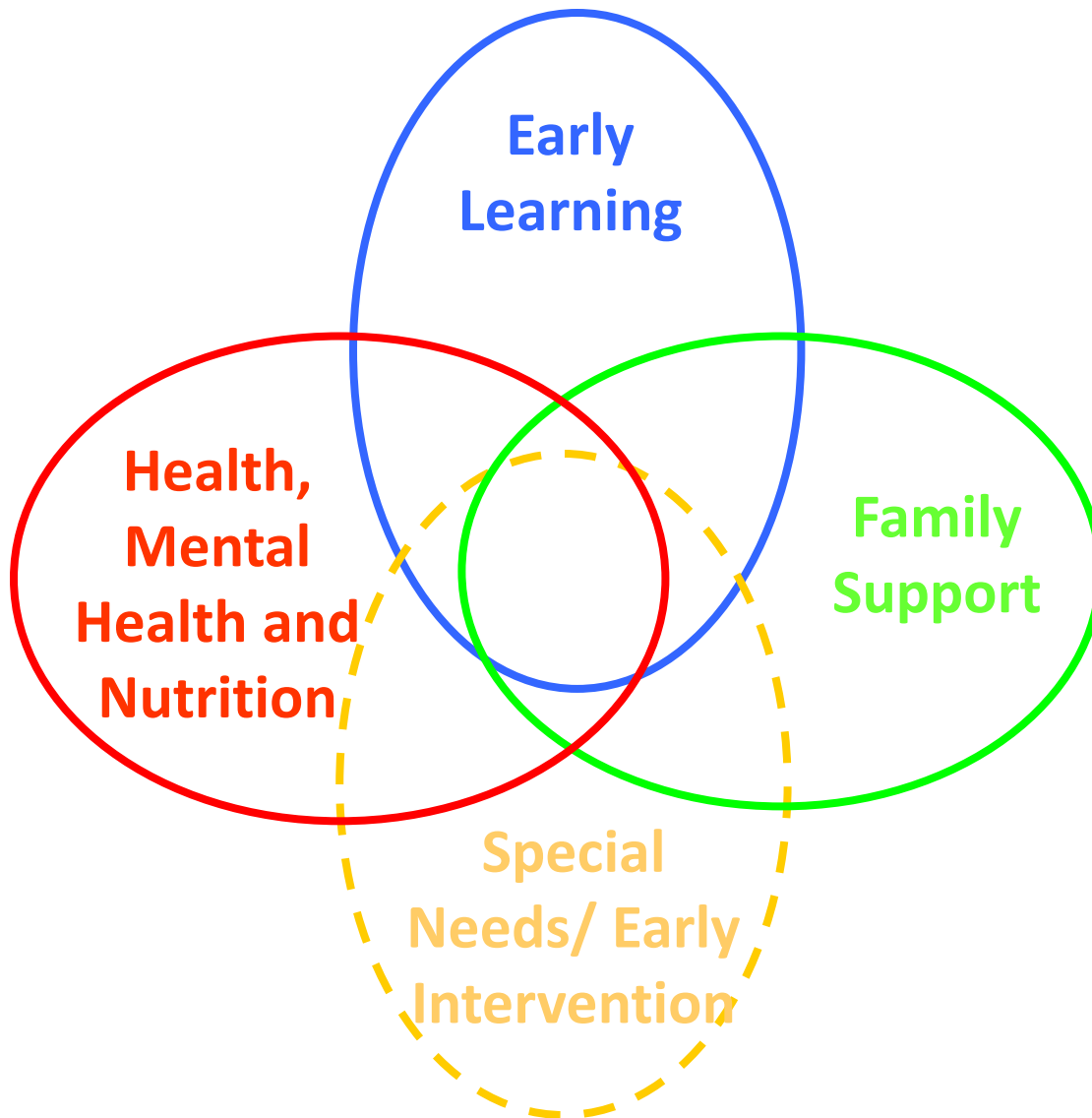
Looking
Ahead



A visual depiction of structure

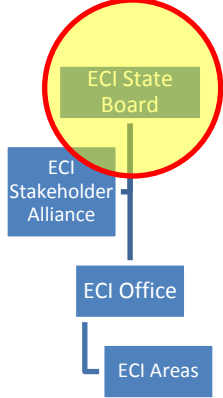


“Through the ECI initiative every community in Iowa will develop the capacity and commitment for using local, informed decision making to achieve the...desired results for improving the quality of life in this state for young children and their families.” –SF 2088



RESULT AREAS

- Healthy children – **RED OVAL + SN**
- Children ready to succeed in school – **BLUE OVAL + SN**
- Safe and supportive communities- **ALL OVAL/LOCAL FOCUS**
- Secure and nurturing families-**GREEN OVAL + SN**
- Secure and nurturing early learning environments- **BLUE OVAL + SN**



ECI State Board

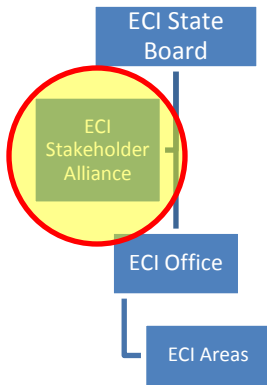
PURPOSE

- **Promote a vision** for a comprehensive early care, education, health, and human services system in this state.
- **Oversee** state and local efforts.
- **Achieve vision** through strategic planning, funding identification, guidance, and decision-making authority
- **Assure collaboration** among state and local early care, education, health, and human services systems.

ECI State Board

MEMBERSHIP

- 21 members
- 15 citizens, 6 agency members (DED, DE, DHR, DHS, DPH, IWD)
- Governor-appointed, reps from congressional districts
- Reflect ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of the state
- not be a provider receiving funds
- nominated by area boards
- 4 members of the general assembly



Early Childhood Stakeholder Alliance

PURPOSE

- **Support state board** in addressing the early care, health, and education systems that affect 0-5 children
- **Oversee/provide input into the development of a high quality Iowa early childhood system** that meets the needs of children 0-5 and families, and integrates the early care, health, and education systems
- Advise the governor, general assembly, state board, and other public and private policy bodies and service providers in coordinating activities

Early Childhood Stakeholder Alliance

MEMBERSHIP

Shall include a representative of any organization that touches the lives of young children in the state 0-5, *and* has endorsed

- the purpose and vision statement for the alliance
- has endorsed the guiding principles adopted by the alliance for the early childhood system
- has formally asked to be a member and remains actively engaged

Early Childhood Stakeholder Alliance

STRUCTURE

Has a steering committee:

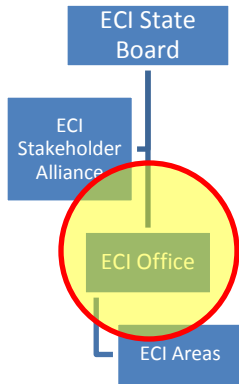
- to organize, manage, and coordinate the activities of the alliance and component groups.
- consists of the co-chairpersons of component groups and ECI Office administrator

Has components groups that:

- Has one private and one public agency person as co-chairperson
- Shall include (initially):
 1. Governance planning and administration.
 2. Professional development.
 3. Public engagement.
 4. Quality services and programs.
 5. Resources and funding.
 6. Results accountability.

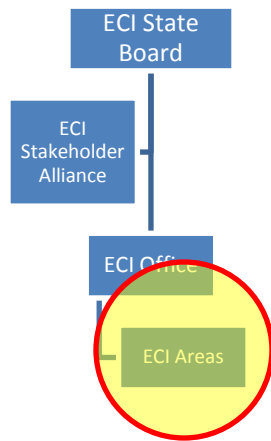
ECI Staff/Office

(Part of Dept of Management)



PURPOSE

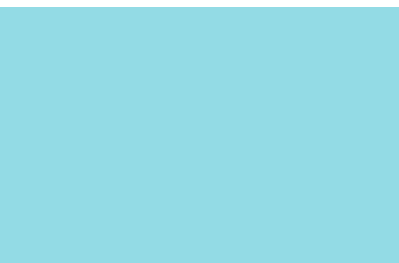
- provide **administrative support** for implementation of ECI initiative and state board
- **provide leadership** for facilitation, communication, and coordination for ECI activities
- work with the state and area boards to provide leadership for **comprehensive system development**



ECI Areas & Boards

PURPOSE

- **Enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts** involving early care, education, health, and human services on behalf of the children, families, and other citizens in area
- **Provide leadership, oversight and management** functions for strategic planning and the funding made available
- Achieve the **desired results**



Family Support in Iowa 2010



Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting
Program





State Home Visitation Program Coordinator

- Combines ECI Family Support Coordinator with IDPH federally funded Home Visitation Program
- IDPH will serve as the hub for family support activities
- Coordinator will provide technical assistance to ECI Board and Office
- Goals
 - *Continue to improve quality of programming*
 - *Strengthen infrastructure*
 - *Implement a central point for intake*
 - *Design and implement a data collection system*



Families and Children Served

by an ECI funded family support program



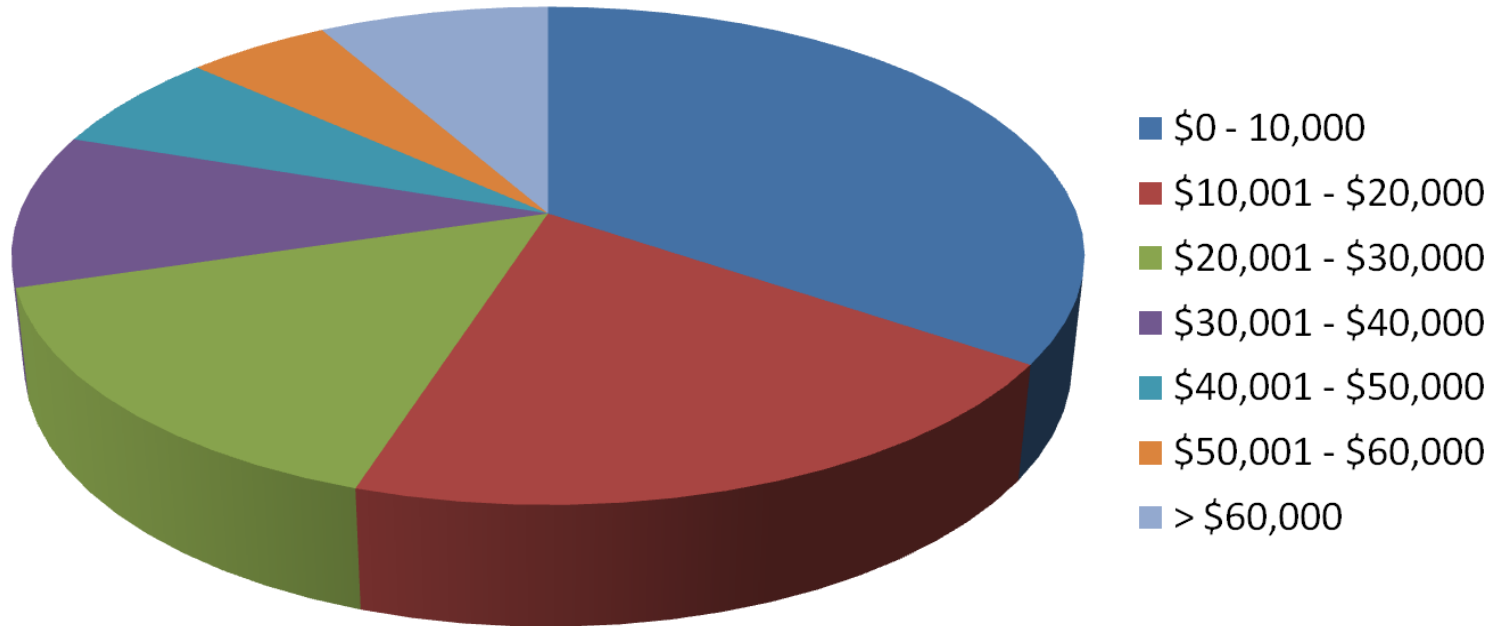
Program Year	Amount of ECI funds Expended	Contractors Funded	Families Served	Children 0 – 5 Served
2010	\$15,577,384.56	189	17,396	22,724
2011	\$14,208,420.17**	176	N/A	N/A

*Data Source: 2010 ECI Annual Reports
2011 ECI Area Budgets*

***Projected expenses based on approved 2011 ECI Area Budgets*

ECI Family Income

Annual Family Income



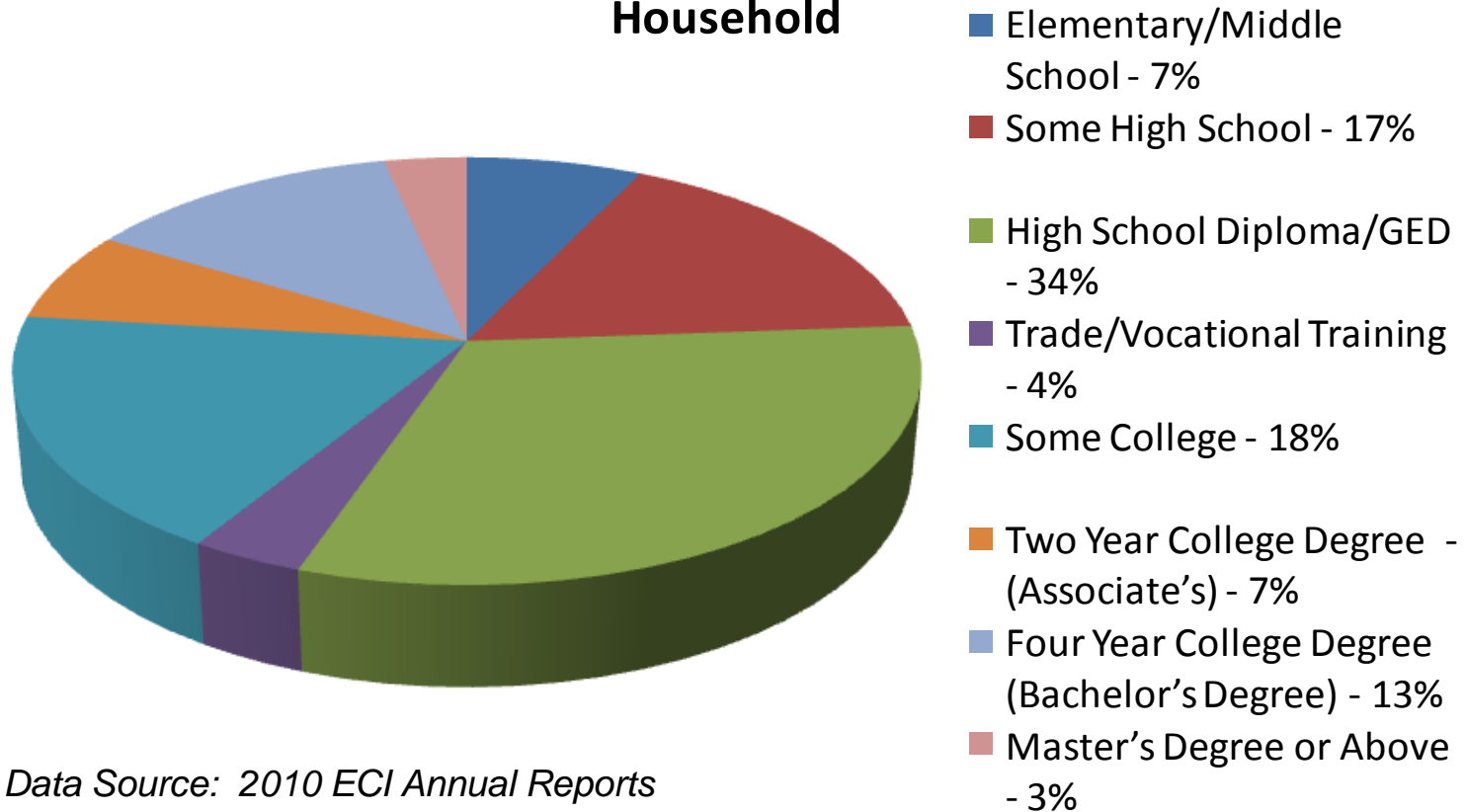
Data Source: 2010 ECI Annual Reports





ECI Education Data

Highest Educational Level Achieved by the Head of Household



Data Source: 2010 ECI Annual Reports

Federal Home Visitation Grant



- Provides \$886,395.000 annually over 5 years for maternal, infant and early childhood home visitation programs.



- Grantees are required to use evidence-based home visitation program models.

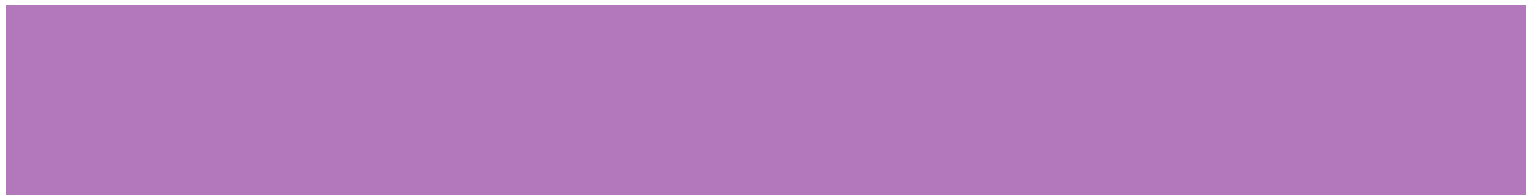
States must demonstrate:



- *Improvements in maternal and child health*
- *Childhood injury prevention*
- *School readiness and achievement*
- *Crime or domestic violence*
- *Family economic self-sufficiency*
- *Coordination with community resources and supports*





Maintenance of Effort

Funds provided “shall supplement, and not supplant funds from other sources for early childhood home visitation programs or initiatives”





Federal Application Process

- **First Step:** Initial Application (Done!)
 - **Second Step:** State Needs Assessment (Done!)
 - **Third Step:** Updated State Plan
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For More Information

Contact:

Janet Horras

State Home Visitation Program Coordinator

Public Health – Bureau of Family Health

E-mail: Janet.Horras@idph.iowa.gov

Phone: 515-954-0647 or

1-800-383-3826



LEGISLATION

Status as of 2/11

DIVISION XXIV
EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA INITIATIVE

Please note that if there is no update, it means that there was no change in the legislation and that it is currently in place.

Sec. 280. NEW SECTION. 256I.3
Early childhood Iowa state board created.

1. The early childhood Iowa state board is created to promote a vision for a comprehensive early care, education, health, and human services system in this state. The board shall oversee state and local efforts. The vision shall be achieved through strategic planning, funding identification, guidance, and decision-making authority to assure collaboration among state and local early care, education, health, and human services systems.

2. a. The board shall consist of twenty-one voting members with fifteen citizen members and six state agency members. The six state agency members shall be the directors or their designees of the following departments: economic development, education, human rights, human services, public health, and workforce development. The designees of state agency directors shall be selected on an annual basis. The citizen members shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate. The governor's appointments of citizen members shall be made in a manner so that each of the state's congressional districts is represented by at least two citizen members and so that all the appointments as a whole reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of the state. A member of the state board shall not be a provider of services or other entity receiving funding through the early childhood Iowa initiative or be employed by such a provider or other entity.

A few board members have voluntarily left the board. Legal counsel guided that anyone who worked for an agency that received funding from ECI were allowed to finish their term.

b. The governor's appointees shall be selected from individuals nominated by area boards. The nominations shall reflect the range of interests represented on the area boards so that the governor is able to appoint one or more members each for early care, education, health, human services,

business, faith, and public interests. At least one of the citizen members shall be a service consumer or the parent of a service consumer. The term of office of the citizen members is three years. A citizen member vacancy on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.

3. Citizen members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of their duties.

Citizen members shall be paid a per diem as specified in section 7E.6.

4. In addition to the voting members, the state board shall include four members of the general assembly with not more than one member from each chamber being from the same political party. The two senators shall be appointed one each by the majority leader of the senate and by the minority leader of the senate. The two representatives shall be appointed one each by the speaker of the house of representatives and by the minority leader of the house of representatives. Legislative members shall serve in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity. A legislative member is eligible for per diem and expenses as provided in section 2.10.

5. The state board shall elect a chairperson from among the citizen members and may select other officers from the voting members as determined to be necessary by the board. The board shall meet regularly as determined by the board, upon the call of the board's chairperson, or upon the call of a majority of voting members. The board shall meet at least quarterly.

Sec. 281. NEW SECTION. 256I.4 Early childhood Iowa state board duties.

The state board shall perform the following duties:

1. Provide oversight of early childhood Iowa areas.

2. Manage and coordinate the provision of grant funding and other moneys made available to early childhood Iowa areas by combining all or portions of appropriations or other revenues as authorized by law.

3. Approve the geographic boundaries for the early childhood Iowa areas throughout the state and approve any proposed changes in the boundaries.

4. Create a strategic plan that supports a comprehensive system of early care, education, health, and human services. The strategic plan shall be

The state board would prefer to meet every other month, but for economic reasons currently meets five times per year.

We are currently in the 3rd quarter of grant funding supporting communities.

Policy currently in place.
http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/files/ToolU_5_09.pdf - Link to Tool U

The board has a strategic plan but will be reviewing and updating in 2011-2012 in

partnership with the ECI Stakeholders Alliance. developed with extensive community involvement. The strategic plan shall be annually updated and disseminated to the public. Specific items to be addressed in the strategic plan shall include but are not limited to all of the following:

- a. Provisions to strengthen the state structure including interagency levels of collaboration, coordination, and integration.
- b. Provisions for building public=private partnerships.
- c. Provisions to support consolidating, blending, and redistributing state=administered funding streams and the coordination of federal funding streams. The strategic plan shall also address integration of services provided through area boards, other state and local commissions, committees, and other bodies with overlapping and similar purposes which contribute to redundancy and fragmentation in early care, education, health, and human services programs provided to the public.
- d. Provisions for improving the efficiency of working with federally mandated bodies.

- e. Identification of indicators that measure the success of the various strategies that impact communities, families, and children. The indicators shall be developed with input from area boards.

5. Adopt common performance measures and data reporting requirements, applicable statewide, for services, programs, and activities provided by area boards. The data from common performance measures and other data shall be posted on the early childhood Iowa internet site and disseminated by other means and shall also be aggregated to provide statewide information.

6. Assist with the linkage of child welfare and juvenile justice decategorization projects with early childhood Iowa areas.

7. Coordinate and respond to requests from an area board relating to any of the following:

- a. Waiver of existing rules, federal regulation, or amendment of state law, or removal of other barriers.
- b. Pooling and redirecting of existing federal, state, or other public or private funds.
- c. Seeking of federal waivers.
- d. Consolidating community=level committees, planning groups, and other

Indicator data from the strategic plan is updated in the statewide annual report.

We will continue to research opportunities to build private-public partnerships.

Common performance measures for all ECI funding were adopted in June 2010 to be effective in FY 11.

bodies with common memberships formed in response to state requirements.

8. Develop and implement a levels of excellence rating system for use with the state board's designation process for area boards. Allow for flexibility and creativity of area boards in implementing area board responsibilities and provide authority for the area boards to support the communities in the areas served. The levels of excellence rating system shall utilize a tiered approach for recognizing the performance of an area board. The system shall provide for action to address poor performing areas as well as higher performing areas. Subject to the funding requirements and other requirements established in law, if an area board achieves the highest rating level, the state board may allow special flexibility provisions in regard to the funding appropriated or allocated for that area board. The state board shall determine how often area boards are reviewed under the system.

9. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A as necessary for the designation, governance, and oversight of area boards and the administration of this chapter. The state board shall provide for area board input in the rules adoption process.

10. Develop guidelines for recommended insurance or other liability coverage and take other actions to assist area boards in acquiring such coverage at a reasonable cost. Moneys expended by an area board to acquire necessary insurance or other liability coverage shall be considered an administrative cost.

11. In January each year, submit an annual report to the governor and general assembly that includes but is not limited to all of the following:

a. Any updates to the strategic plan.

b. The status and results of the early childhood Iowa initiative efforts to engage the public regarding the early care, education, health, human services, and other needs of children zero through age five.

c. The status and results of the efforts to develop and promote private sector involvement with the early care system.

d. The status of the early childhood Iowa initiative and the overall early care system in achieving the set of desired results.

e. The data and common performance measures addressed by the strategic plan,

The Levels of Excellence rating system is currently being piloted with two local boards. It is the intention to be adopted and implemented during FY '11. The current timeline will require all areas to meet legislative requirements for boundary by July 1, 2013.

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/iowa_board/docs/Merger%20Waiver%20Policy.pdf

The rule-making process for the policy rules is in the final stage. Final review with Administrative Rules Committee is on the 2/11/11 agenda.

Updated guidance for local boards was released in September 2010.

Annual report was made available in January 2011. See:

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/annual_reports/index.html

which shall include but is not limited to funding amounts.

f. The indicators addressed by the strategic plan along with associated data trends and their source.

12. Integrate statewide quality standards and results indicators adopted by other boards and commissions into the state board's funding requirements for investments in early care, health, education, and human services.

13. Ensure alignment of other state departments' activities with the strategic plan.

14. Develop and keep current memoranda of agreements between the state agencies represented on the state board to promote system development and integration and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of partner agencies.

15. Work with the early childhood Iowa office in building public-private partnerships for promoting the collaborative early care, education, health, and human services system.

16. Support and align the early childhood Iowa internet site with other agencies and improve internet communication.

17. Except for the fiscal oversight measures to be adopted by the department, adopt rules to implement this chapter. The rules shall include but are not limited to the following:

a. Indicators of the effectiveness of early childhood Iowa areas, area boards, and the services provided under the auspices of the area boards. The indicators shall be developed with input from area boards and shall build upon the core indicators of effectiveness for the school ready children grant program.

b. Minimum standards to further the provision of equal access to services subject to the authority of area boards.

c. Core functions for family support services, parent education programs, preschool services provided under a school ready children grant, and other programs and services provided under this chapter. The state board shall also develop guidelines and standards for state-supported family support programs, based upon existing guidelines and standards for the services.

18. Address other measures to advance the initiative. The measures may include any of the following:

a. Advance the development of integrated data systems.

The State Board supports and promotes quality standards. Two examples are in their guidance for both the preschool support and the family support funding.

Will begin with new department directors in 2011.

We will continue to align communication through the ECI website. Currently we are on target to merge Community Empowerment and Early Childhood Iowa websites into one. (Target for completion is end of February 2011.)

The rule-making process for the policy rules is in the final stage. Final review with Administrative Rules Committee is on the 2/11/11 agenda.

The ECI Office applied for and received a federal grant. Part of the funding from the grant will be used to develop a plan for data integration.

b. Expand efforts to improve quality and utilize evidence-based practices.

c. Further develop kindergarten assessment approaches that are tied to state early learning standards.

Sec. 282. NEW SECTION. 256I.5 Early childhood coordination staff.

1. The department shall provide administrative support for implementation of the early childhood Iowa initiative and for the state board. The department shall adopt rules in consultation with the state board to provide fiscal oversight of the initiative. The fiscal oversight measures adopted shall include but are not limited to all of the following:

a. Reporting and other requirements to address the financial activities employed by area boards.

b. Regular audits and other requirements of fiscal agents for area boards.

c. Requirements for area boards to undertake and report on fiscal and performance reviews of the programs, contracts, services, and other functions funded by the area boards.

2. An early childhood Iowa office is established in the department to provide leadership for facilitation, communication, and coordination for the early childhood Iowa initiative activities and funding and for improvement of the early care, education, health, and human services systems. An administrator for the early childhood Iowa office shall be appointed by the director of the department. Other staff may also be designated, subject to appropriation made for this purpose.

3. The state agencies represented on the state board may designate additional staff, as part of the early childhood Iowa initiative, to work as a technical assistance team with the office in providing coordination and other support to the state's comprehensive early care, education, health, and human services system.

4. The office shall work with the state and area boards to provide leadership for comprehensive system development. The office shall also do all of the following:

a. Enter into memoranda of agreement with the departments of economic development, education, human rights, human services, public health, and workforce development to formalize the respective departments' commitments to

The board continues to promote quality in their guidance; we track measures of quality standards; technical assistance is provided to boards regarding quality practices. Local boards also use input from early childhood program providers in the community through advisory workgroups.

Fiscal rules have been promulgated. Final review with Administrative Rules Committee is on the 2/11/11 agenda. Policies for the rules will be developed in cooperation between the Department of Management and The ECI Board. We are utilizing guidance from a Fiscal Accountability Workgroup, (a committee of the board).

This item will be addressed in the MOAs to be developed.

Will begin with new department directors in 2011.

collaborating with and integrating a comprehensive early care, education, health, and human services system. Items addressed in the memoranda shall include but are not limited to data sharing and providing staffing to the technical assistance team.

b. Work with private businesses, foundations, and nonprofit organizations to develop sustained funding.

c. Maintain the internet site in accordance with section 256I.10.

d. Propose any needed revisions to administrative rules based on stakeholder input.

e. Provide technical support to the state and area boards and to the early childhood Iowa areas through staffing services made available through the state agencies that serve on the state board.

f. Develop, collect, disseminate, and provide guidance for common performance measures for the programs receiving funding under the auspices of the area boards.

g. If a disagreement arises within an early childhood Iowa area regarding the interests represented on the area's board, board decisions, or other disputes that cannot be locally resolved, upon request, provide state or regional technical assistance as deemed appropriate by the office to assist the area in resolving the disagreement.

Sec. 283. NEW SECTION. 256I.6
Early childhood Iowa areas.

1. The purpose of an early childhood Iowa area is to enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving early care, education, health, and human services on behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing in the area. Leadership functions may include but are not limited to strategic planning for and oversight and managing of such programs and the funding made available to the early childhood Iowa area for such programs from federal, state, local, and private sources. The focus of the area shall be to achieve the desired results and to improve other results for families with young children.

2. An early childhood Iowa area shall be designated by using existing county boundaries to the extent possible.

3. The designation of an early childhood Iowa area boundaries and the creation of an area board are both subject to the approval of the state board. The state board shall determine if a proposed area board can efficiently and effectively administer the

Currently we are on target to merge Community Empowerment and Early Childhood Iowa websites into one. (Target for completion is end of February 2011.)

With input from community area coordinators, we developed measures, the board adopted and regional training was conducted in June 2010 for the common performance measures.

responsibilities and authority of the area to be served. The state board may apply additional criteria for designating areas and approving area boards, but shall apply all of the following minimum criteria:

a. An area cannot encompass more than four counties.

b. The counties encompassing a multicounty area must have contiguous borders.

c. A single county area shall have a minimum population of children zero through age five in excess of five thousand, based on the most recent population estimates issued by the United States bureau of the census.

4. If the state board determines exceptional circumstances exist, the state board may waive any of the criteria otherwise specified in subsection 3.

Sec. 284. NEW SECTION. 256I.7
Early childhood Iowa area boards created.

1. a. The early childhood Iowa functions for an area shall be performed under the authority of an early childhood Iowa area board. The members of an area board shall be elected officials or members of the public who are not employed by a provider of services to or for the area board. In addition, the membership of an area board shall include representation from early care, education, health, human services, business, and faith interests, and at least one parent, grandparent, or guardian of a child from zero through age five.

b. Terms of office of area board members shall be not more than three years and the terms shall be staggered.

2. An area board may designate an advisory council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider of service. However, the deliberations of and documents considered by such an advisory council shall be public.

3. An area board shall elect a chairperson from among the members who are citizens or elected officials.

4. An area board is a unit of local government for purposes of chapter 670, relating to tort liability of governmental subdivisions. For purposes of implementing a formal organizational structure, an area board may utilize recommended guidelines and bylaws

Policies and procedures for statewide merger waiver was adopted 7/10 and 11/10.

Link to materials from workgroup:

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/iowa_board/state_wide_merger.html

Link to policies:

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/iowa_board/studies.html

Boards are working to meet this legislative requirement. Legal counsel guided that persons could complete their current term.

established for this purpose by the state board.

5. All meetings of an area board or any committee or other body established by an area board at which public business is discussed or formal action taken shall comply with the requirements of chapter 21. An area board shall maintain its records in accordance with chapter 22.

Sec. 285. NEW SECTION. 256I.8

Early childhood Iowa area board duties.

1. An early childhood Iowa area board shall do all of the following:

a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in section 28E.2, a community action agency as defined in section 216A.91, an area education agency established under section 273.2, or a nonprofit corporation, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for other moneys administered by the area board.

b. Administer early childhood Iowa grant moneys available from the state to the area board as provided by law and other federal, state, local, and private moneys made available to the area board. Eligibility for receipt of early childhood Iowa grant moneys shall be limited to those early childhood area boards that have developed an approved community plan in accordance with this chapter. An early childhood area board may apply to the state board for any private moneys received by the early childhood Iowa initiative outside of a state appropriation.

c. Develop a comprehensive community plan for providing services for children from zero through age five. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of the following:

(1) Describe community and area needs for children from zero through age five as identified through ongoing assessments.

(2) Describe the current and desired levels of community and area coordination of services for children from zero through age five, including the involvement and specific responsibilities of all related organizations and entities.

(3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private funding sources including funding estimates available in the early childhood Iowa area that will be used to provide services to children from zero through age five.

(4) Describe how funding sources will be used collaboratively and the degree to which the sources can be combined to provide necessary services to young children and their families.

Guidance is provided to boards regarding Chapter 22.

All area boards have fiscal agents that meet this criteria.

All area boards have comprehensive community plans. They are submitted to the state for review during the levels of excellence rating period. Updates are provided in the area board's annual report.

(5) Identify the desired results and the community-wide indicators the area board expects to address through implementation of the comprehensive community plan. The plan shall identify community-specific, quantifiable performance measures to be reported in the area board's annual report and integration with the strategic plan adopted by the state board.

(6) Describe the current status of support services to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, prevent child injuries, develop health emergency protocols, help with medication, and care for children with special health needs that are being provided to child care facilities registered or licensed under chapter 237A within the early childhood Iowa area.

d. Submit an annual report on the effectiveness of the community plan in addressing school readiness and children's health and safety needs to the state board and to the local government bodies in the area. The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the area board in addressing state and locally determined goals.

e. Function as a coordinating body for services offered by different entities directed to similar purposes within the area.

f. Assume other responsibilities established by law or administrative rule.

g. Cooperate with the state board, department of education, and school districts and other local education agencies in securing unique student identifiers, in compliance with all applicable federal and state confidentiality provisions.

2. An area board may do any of the following:

a. Designate one or more committees to assist with area board functions.

b. Utilize community bodies for input to the area board and implementation of services.

Sec. 286. NEW SECTION. 256I.9 School ready children grant program.

1. The state board shall develop and promote a school ready children grant program which shall provide for all of the following components:

a. Identify the performance measures that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the school ready children grants, including the amount of early intellectual stimulation of very

This is a current requirement of local boards.

Although this was in the area board responsibility, the ECI Office and the Department of Education are implementing a pilot project for expansion of unique student identifier database. The project is to reach Head Start Programs that receive support from ECI funding.

young children, the basic skill levels of students entering school, the health status of children, the incidence of child abuse and neglect, the level of involvement by parents with their children, and the degree of quality of an accessibility to child care.

b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for determining the readiness of an early childhood Iowa area board for administering a school ready children grant.

c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

2. The state board shall provide maximum flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys included in a school ready children grant.

3. A school ready children grant shall, to the extent possible, be used to support programs that meet quality standards identified by the state board. At a minimum, a grant shall be used to provide all of the following:

a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to children deemed at risk.

b. Family support services and parent education programs promoted to parents of children from zero through age five. Family support services shall include but are not limited to home visitation. Of the funding from all sources that an area board designates for family support programs, at least sixty percent shall be committed to programs with a home visitation component.

c. Other services to support the strategic plan developed by the state board.

d. Services to improve the quality and availability of all types of child care. The services may include but are not limited to making nurse consultants available to support quality improvement.

4. a. A school ready children grant shall be awarded to an area board annually, as funding is available. Receipt of continued funding is subject to submission of the required annual report and the state board's determination that the area board is measuring, through the use of performance measures and community-wide indicators developed by the state board with input from area boards, progress toward and is achieving the desired results and other results identified in the community plan. Each area board shall participate in the levels of excellence rating system to measure the area's success. If the use

A definition for home visitation component was adopted by the state board. Local boards and ECI Office ensure that area boards meet the new 60% legislated requirement for home visitation component.

Link to policy:

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/files/toolkit_tools/Tool%20FF%20-%20HV%20PS%20tool%20updated%205-14-10%20FINAL%20_2_.pdf

of performance measures and community-wide indicators does not show that an area board has made progress toward achieving the results identified in the community plan, the state board shall require a plan of corrective action, withhold any increase in funding, or withdraw grant funding.

b. The state board shall distribute school ready children grant moneys to area boards with approved comprehensive community plans based upon a determination of an early childhood Iowa area's readiness to effectively utilize the grant moneys. The grant moneys shall be adjusted for other federal and state grant moneys to be received by the area for services to children from zero through age five.

c. An area board's readiness shall be determined by evidence of successful collaboration among public and private early care, education, health, and human services interests in the area or a documented program design that supports a strong likelihood of a successful collaboration between these interests. Other criteria which may be used by the state board to determine readiness and funding amounts for an area include one or more of the following:

(1) The levels of excellence rating received by the area.

(2) Evidence of the area's capacity to successfully implement the services in the area's community plan.

(3) Local public and private funding and other resources committed to implementation of the community plan.

(4) The adequacy of plans for commitment of local funding and other resources for implementation of the community plan.

d. The provisions for distribution of school ready children grant moneys shall be determined by the state board.

e. The amount of school ready children grant funding an area board may carry forward from one fiscal year to the succeeding fiscal year shall not exceed twenty percent of the grant amount for the fiscal year. All of the school ready children grant funds received by an area board for a fiscal year which remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal year shall be carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year. However, the grant amount for the succeeding fiscal year shall be reduced by the amount in excess of twenty percent of the grant amount received for the fiscal year.

Sec. 287. NEW SECTION. 256I.10
Early childhood Iowa internet site.

1. The department shall provide for the operation of an internet site for purposes of widely distributing information regarding early care, education, health, and human services and other information provided by the departments represented on the state board and the public and private agencies addressing the comprehensive system for such services.

2. Information provided on the internet site shall include but is not limited to all of the following:

a. Information about the early childhood Iowa initiative for state and local use. The information shall include data from the indicators of success and performance measures adopted by the state board and fiscal information and other data developed by the department.

b. A link to a special internet site directed to parents, including parent-specific information on early care, education, health, and human services and links to other resources available on the internet and from other sources.

c. Program standards for early care, education, health, and human services that have been approved by state agencies.

3. The department shall provide to the state board information regarding the extent and frequency of usage of the internet site or sites and this information shall be included in the board's annual report to the governor and general assembly.

Sec. 288. NEW SECTION. 256I.11
Early childhood Iowa fund.

1. An early childhood Iowa fund is created in the state treasury. The moneys credited to the fund are not subject to section 8.33 and moneys in the fund shall not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided by law. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

2. A school ready children grants account is created in the fund under the authority of the director of the department of education. Moneys credited to the account are appropriated to and shall be distributed by the department in the form

Currently we are on target to merge Community Empowerment and Early Childhood Iowa websites into one. (Target for completion is end of February 2011.)

of grants to early childhood Iowa areas pursuant to criteria established by the state board in accordance with law.

3. Unless a different amount is authorized by law, up to three percent of the school ready children grant moneys distributed to an area board may be used by the area board for administrative costs.

4. a. An early childhood programs grants account is created in the fund under the authority of the director of the department of human services. Moneys credited to the account are appropriated to and shall be distributed by the department of human services in the form of grants to early childhood Iowa areas pursuant to criteria established by the state board in accordance with law. The criteria shall include but are not limited to a requirement that an early childhood Iowa area must be designated by the state board in order to be eligible to receive an early childhood programs grant.

b. The maximum funding amount an early childhood Iowa area is eligible to receive from the early childhood programs grant account for a fiscal year shall be determined by applying the area's percentage of the state's average monthly family investment program population in the preceding fiscal year to the total amount credited to the account for the fiscal year.

c. An early childhood Iowa area receiving funding from the early childhood programs grant account shall comply with any federal reporting requirements associated with the use of that funding and other results and reporting requirements established by the state board. The department of human services shall provide technical assistance in identifying and meeting the federal requirements. The availability of funding provided from the account is subject to changes in federal requirements and amendments to Iowa law.

d. The moneys distributed from the early childhood programs grant account shall be used by early childhood Iowa areas for the purposes of enhancing quality child care capacity in support of parent capability to obtain or retain employment. The moneys shall be used with a primary emphasis on low-income families and children from zero to age five. Moneys shall be provided in a flexible manner and shall be used to implement strategies identified by the early childhood Iowa area to achieve such

purposes. The department of human services may use a portion of the funding appropriated to the department under this subsection for provision of technical assistance and other support to the early childhood Iowa areas developing and implementing strategies with grant moneys distributed from the account.

e. Moneys from a federal block grant that are credited to the early childhood programs grant account but are not distributed to an early childhood Iowa area or otherwise remain unobligated or unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall revert to the fund created in section 8.41 to be available for appropriation by the general assembly in a subsequent fiscal year.

5. A first years first account is created in the fund under the authority of the department of management. The account shall consist of gift or grant moneys obtained from any source, including but not limited to the federal government. Moneys credited to the account are appropriated to the department to be used for the early childhood-related purposes for which the moneys were received.

Sec. 289. NEW SECTION. 256I.12
Early childhood stakeholders alliance.

1. Alliance created. An early childhood stakeholders alliance is created to support the state board in addressing the early care, health, and education systems that affect children ages zero through five in Iowa.

2. Purpose. The purpose of the early childhood stakeholders alliance is to oversee and provide broad input into the development of a high quality Iowa early childhood system that meets the needs of children zero through age five and their families and integrates the early care, health, and education systems. The alliance shall advise the governor, general assembly, state board, and other public and private policy bodies and service providers in coordinating activities throughout the state to fulfill its purpose.

3. Vision statement. All system development activities addressed by the early childhood stakeholders alliance shall be aligned around the following vision statement for the children of Iowa: "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."

4. Membership. The early childhood stakeholders alliance membership shall include a representative of any organization that touches the lives of

young children in the state zero through age five, has endorsed the purpose and vision statement for the alliance, has endorsed the guiding principles adopted by the alliance for the early childhood system, and has formally asked to be a member and remains actively engaged in alliance activities. The alliance shall work to ensure there is geographic, cultural, and ethnic diversity among the membership.

5. Procedure. Except as otherwise provided by law, the early childhood stakeholders alliance shall determine its own rules of procedure and operating provisions.

6. Steering committee. The early childhood stakeholders alliance shall operate with a steering committee to organize, manage, and coordinate the activities of the alliance and its component groups. The steering committee may act on behalf of the alliance as necessary. The steering committee membership shall consist of the co-chairpersons of the alliance's component groups, the administrator of the early childhood Iowa office, and other leaders designated by the alliance.

7. Component groups. The early childhood stakeholders alliance shall maintain component groups to address the key components of the Iowa early childhood system. Each component group shall have one private and one public agency co-chairperson. The alliance may change the component groups as deemed necessary by the alliance. Initially, there shall be a component group for each of the following:

- a. Governance planning and administration.
- b. Professional development.
- c. Public engagement.
- d. Quality services and programs.
- e. Resources and funding.
- f. Results accountability.

8. Duties. The early childhood stakeholders alliance duties shall include but are not limited to all of the following regarding the Iowa early childhood system:

- a. Coordinate with the early childhood Iowa state board.
- b. Serve as the state advisory council required under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110=134, as designated by the governor.

9. Staffing. Staff support for the early childhood stakeholders alliance shall be provided by the department.

Because of this designation, we were eligible to apply for a federal grant; we received the grant.

We currently partner with the Department of Public Health to support the ECI Stakeholders Alliance.

Sec. 310. TRANSITION.

1. The initial membership of the early childhood Iowa state board shall be composed of the membership of the Iowa empowerment board.

2. Effective on or after July 1, 2011, as determined by the early childhood Iowa state board created pursuant to this division of this Act, the designations granted by the Iowa empowerment board to community empowerment areas and community empowerment area boards under chapter 28, Code 2009, are withdrawn. However, subject to the approval of the early childhood Iowa state board in accordance with the area board designation criteria established by this division of this Act, all or a portion of the membership of a community empowerment area board may be designated to serve as the membership of the initial early childhood Iowa area board for the relevant early childhood Iowa area to be served. Subject to rules to be adopted by the state board addressing redesignation of community empowerment areas as early childhood Iowa areas, existing multicounty community empowerment area boards may choose to be redefined as early childhood Iowa area boards.

3. Until the early childhood Iowa state board has adopted administrative rules to implement the provisions of chapter 256I, as enacted by this division of this Act, the department of management shall apply the relevant rules adopted to implement the community empowerment initiative under chapter 28, Code 2009. The state board shall also adopt rules addressing transition of contracts entered into by community empowerment area boards that include provisions in effect on or after July 1, 2012.

4. The department of management and the early childhood Iowa board shall implement requirements for school ready children grant funds or other state, federal, or other funds in possession of a community empowerment area remaining unobligated or unexpended to be remitted to the successor early childhood Iowa area board designated to serve that area.

The requirements shall include measures to ensure there is continuity of services in the transition from the community empowerment initiative to the early childhood Iowa initiative.

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/iowa_board/docs/Merger%20Waiver%20Policy.pdf

The above is a link to the board's policy regarding a timeline for implementation of the boundary legislation.

Below is a link to the board's policy regarding carry forward funding to successor boards:

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/files/policies_reports/encumbered_policy.pdf

DIVISION XXXVI
CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sec. 354. NEW SECTION. 135.173A
Child care advisory committee.

1. The early childhood Iowa council shall establish a state child care advisory committee as part of the council. The advisory committee shall advise and make recommendations to the governor, general assembly, department of human services, and other state agencies concerning child care.

2. The membership of the advisory committee shall consist of a broad spectrum of parents and other persons from across the state with an interest in or involvement with child care.

3. Except as otherwise provided, the voting members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the council from a list of names submitted by a nominating committee to consist of one member of the advisory committee, one member of the department of human services' child care staff, three consumers of child care, and one member of a professional child care organization. Two names shall be submitted for each appointment. The voting members shall be appointed for terms of three years.

4. The voting membership of the advisory committee shall be appointed in a manner so as to provide equitable representation of persons with an interest in child care and shall include all of the following:

a. Two parents of children served by a registered child development home.

b. Two parents of children served by a licensed center.

c. Two not-for-profit child care providers.

d. Two for-profit child care providers.

e. One child care home provider.

f. Three child development home providers.

g. One child care resource and referral service grantee.

h. One nongovernmental child advocacy group representative.

i. One designee of the department of human services.

j. One designee of the Iowa department of public health.

k. One designee of the department of education.

l. One head start program provider.

This change in structure has been discussed by the current State Child Care Advisory Council and the Early Childhood Iowa State Board. In partnership with the Department of Human Services, we are moving forward with this legislation.

m. One person who is a business owner or executive officer from nominees submitted by the Iowa chamber of commerce executives.

n. One designee of the community empowerment office of the department of management.

o. One person who is a member of the Iowa afterschool alliance.

p. One person who is part of a local program implementing the statewide preschool program for four-year-old children under chapter 256C.

q. One person who represents the early childhood Iowa council.

5. In addition to the voting members of the advisory committee, the membership shall include four legislators as ex officio, nonvoting members. The four legislators shall be appointed one each by the majority leader of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the minority leader of the house of representatives for terms as provided in section 69.16B.

6. In fulfilling the advisory committee's role, the committee shall do all of the following:

a. Consult with the department of human services and make recommendations concerning policy issues relating to child care.

b. Advise the department of human services concerning services relating to child care, including but not limited to any of the following:

- (1) Resource and referral services.
- (2) Provider training.
- (3) Quality improvement.
- (4) Public-private partnerships.
- (5) Standards review and

development.

(6) The federal child care and development block grant, state funding, grants, and other funding sources for child care.

c. Assist the department of human services in developing an implementation plan to provide seamless service to recipients of public assistance, which includes child care services.

For the purposes of this subsection, "seamless service" means coordination, where possible, of the federal and state requirements which apply to child care.

d. Advise and provide technical services to the director of the department of education or the director's designee relating to prekindergarten, kindergarten, and before and after school programming and facilities.

e. Make recommendations concerning child care expansion programs that meet the needs of children attending a core education program by providing child care before and after the core program hours and during times when the core program does not operate.

f. Make recommendations for improving collaborations between the child care programs involving the department of human services and programs supporting the education and development of young children including but not limited to the federal head start program, the statewide preschool program for four-year-old children and the early childhood, at-risk, and other early education programs administered by the department of education.

g. Make recommendations for eliminating duplication and otherwise improving the eligibility determination processes used for the state child care assistance program and other programs supporting low-income families, including but not limited to the federal head start, early head start, and even start programs; the early childhood, at-risk, and preschool programs administered by the department of education; the family and self-sufficiency grant program; and the family investment program.

h. Make recommendations as to the most effective and efficient means of managing the state and federal funding available for the state child care assistance program.

i. Review program data from the department of human services and other departments concerning child care as deemed to be necessary by the advisory committee, although a department shall not provide personally identifiable data or information.

j. Advise and assist the early childhood Iowa council in developing the strategic plan required pursuant to section

135.173.

7. The department of human services shall provide information to the advisory committee semiannually on all of the following:

a. Federal, state, local, and private revenues and expenditures for child care, including but not limited to updates on the current and future status of the revenues and expenditures.

b. Financial information and data relating to regulation of child care by the department of human services and the

usage of the state child care assistance program.

c. Utilization and availability data relating to child care regulation, quantity, and quality from consumer and provider perspectives.

d. Statistical and demographic data regarding child care providers and the families utilizing child care.

e. Statistical data regarding the processing time for issuing notices of decision to state child care assistance applicants and for issuing payments to child care providers.

8. The advisory committee shall coordinate with the early childhood Iowa council its reporting annually in December to the governor and general assembly concerning the status of child care in the state, providing findings, and making recommendations. The annual report may be personally presented to the general assembly's standing committees on human resources by a representative of the advisory committee.

Sec. 355. Section 237A.1, subsection 16, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

16. "State child care advisory ~~council~~ committee" means the state child care advisory ~~council~~ committee established pursuant to ~~sections 237A.21 and 237A.22~~ section 135.173A.

Sec. 356. Section 237A.12, subsection 3, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3. Rules relating to fire safety for child care centers shall be adopted under this chapter by the state fire marshal in consultation with the department. Rules adopted by the state fire marshal for a building which is owned or leased by a school district or accredited nonpublic school and used as a child care facility shall not differ from standards adopted by the state fire marshal for school buildings under chapter 100. Rules relating to sanitation shall be adopted by the department in consultation with the director of public health. All rules shall be developed in consultation with the state child care advisory ~~council~~ committee. The state fire marshal shall inspect the facilities.

Sec. 357. Section 237A.25, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1. The department shall develop consumer information material to assist parents in selecting a child care provider.

Here is a link to this year's annual report for the council:

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/files/annual_reports/2010/SCCAC%20Annual%20Report%20FY%2010t-1.pdf

In developing the material, the department shall consult with department of human services staff, department of education staff, the state child care advisory ~~council~~ committee, the Iowa empowerment board, and child care resource and referral services. In addition, the department may consult with other entities at the local, state, and national level.

Sec. 358. Section 237A.30, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1. The department shall work with the community empowerment office of the department of management established in section 28.3 and the state child care advisory ~~council~~ committee in designing and implementing a voluntary quality rating system for each provider type of child care facility.

Sec. 359. Section 256.9, subsection 32, paragraph b, Code Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

b. Standards and materials developed shall include materials which employ developmentally appropriate practices and incorporate substantial parental involvement. The materials and standards shall include alternative teaching approaches including collaborative teaching and alternative dispute resolution training. The department shall consult with the child development coordinating council, the state child care advisory ~~council~~ committee established pursuant to section 135.173A, the department of human services, the state board of regents center for early developmental education, the area education agencies, the department of ~~child human development and family studies in the college of family and consumer human sciences at Iowa state university of science and technology, the early childhood elementary division of the college of education at the university of Iowa, and the college of education at the university of northern Iowa,~~ in developing these standards and materials.

Sec. 360. REPEAL. Sections 237A.21 and 237A.22, Code Supplement 2009, are repealed.

Sec. 361. IMPLEMENTATION == EFFECTIVE DATE.

1. The early childhood Iowa council shall develop a legislation proposal identifying memberships slots for the state child care advisory committee as created by this division of this Act. The proposal shall ensure that there is

A legislative proposal was submitted and is found at:

[http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/files/annual_reports/2010/Report%20to%20the%20Iowa%20General%20Assembly%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/files/annual_reports/2010/Report%20to%20the%20Iowa%20General%20Assembly%20(3).pdf)

appropriate representation for the various types of child care arrangements available in the state and for expertise. The proposal shall be submitted to the governor and general assembly on or before December 15, 2010.

2. If a provision of this Act or another enactment of the Eighty-third General Assembly repeals section 135.173 and creates the early childhood Iowa state board in new Code chapter 256I, the early childhood Iowa state board shall fulfill the responsibilities assigned to the early childhood Iowa council in subsection 1 and the department of education shall propose corrective legislation for the provisions of this division of this Act in accordance with section 2.16 for consideration by the Eighty-fourth General Assembly, 2011 Regular Session.

3. The provisions of this division of this Act other than this section take effect July 1, 2011.